

# THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

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## THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

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ELIZABETH SCOTT HUNT, Managing Editor

Contributing Editor—PETER BRUST, F.A.I.A.

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☐ The Secretary is planning to publish in the Wisconsin Architect, a list of members of the State Association. It looks now as though the list will be a long one, inasmuch as the response to the current bills for dues, recently mailed out, has been very gratifying. If you have not already sent in your check, please do so at once. There is much important work being done, and to be done, by the State Association which will be of great benefit to its membership, and money is needed. Hence, this urgent appeal.

## ALEXANDER H. BAUER TO BE GUEST LECTURER AT M. U.

During the week of November 13, a course in the principles and every day problems of real estate management will be offered by the Institute of Real Estate Management at Marquette University. Alexander H. Bauer, Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin Chapter, A.I.A., will be one of the guest lecturers.

Such subjects as architectural and psychological phases of management work, decoration, furnishings, utilities and maintenance, will be featured in the course.

The faculty will include some of the country's leading property managers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Supervisor Eugene Warnimont, Chairman of the county-wide Postwar Planning Committee, has appointed the following executive committee: Ald. E. A. Hansen and James Collins, representing the city of Milwaukee; Ald. B. M. Feinberg, Cudahy, and Mayor A. H. Klentz, West Allis, representing suburban cities; Alfred J. Kieckhefer, River Hills, representing the villages, and Warnimont and Lawrence J. Timmerman, chairman of the county board, representing the county.

## WAR MEMORIALS — THEIR FORM

The American Institute of Architects has created a new Committee with Paul C. Cret as Chairman, to study and recommend the best forms for War Memorials. We are most anxious to read their findings, for we have seen many Memorials which do not actually commemorate, outwardly, a definite act or deed. Neither do they foster any emotions—nor reminders of valor and sacrifice.

Just what should Memorials be? Should they be in the forms of monumental buildings, monuments, parks, play grounds, special rooms, schools, community buildings or flagpoles? Or should they be in the forms of highways, scholarships, or merely a building that a community is in need of anyhow, and so dedicates it as a Memorial?

Many people have expressed themselves on this subject, but not convincingly enough to establish an acceptable or worthy pattern.

We conceive a Memorial to be one which remains a Memorial throughout the years, in the true sense of the word. It should be a definite tribute. A life-long reminder.

For the second or third time in our generation, the deeds of our heroes are brought vividly before us.

Are we, the Architects, to create LIVING MEMORIALS, each of which tells a story of heroic deeds and demonstrates, as nearly as we know how, our humble gratitude? Or, are we to design structures simply because they are needed, or may not live, placing on them bronze tablets, seldom read or understood?

We hope that lasting and fitting Memorials will be built that are not quickly forgotten, obstructive, depressing projects, done hurriedly by those without proper qualifications, knowledge, or sentiment.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE METRIC SYSTEM

We are informed that many of the A.I.A. Chapters, notably the New York Chapter, are favoring the use of the Metric System in lieu of the present standard of feet and inches.

John J. Klaber of that Chapter, writes in the Journal of The American Institute of Architects his version of this proposed change, holding that the present system is so deeply rooted in our habits that conversion would be long and costly. He questions that much would really be gained by it.

We would suggest that the fractions of an inch be changed to tenths and hundredths. Thus 120 feet 10.4 inches, would make an acceptable substitute for the Metric System, with but one change and that, a logical one.

The Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

Twelve million shelters will have to be built for China's homeless immediately after the war, says Methodist Bishop W. Y. Chen. The Chinese churchman told President Rufus B. von Kleinsmid of the University of Southern California that 2,500,000 foreign engineers, technicians and agricultural experts will be required to assist China's 30 year postwar industrialization program.



## THE EXPERT WITNESS

By

GERALD J. RICE

Attorney for The State Assn. of Wisconsin Architects

Have you ever testified in Court as an expert witness in some case involving architecture? Do you know to what you can testify as an expert witness? Do you know the difference between an expert witness and other witnesses?

By way of introduction, it may be well to briefly review a few fundamentals of law. A trial in Court is a hearing to determine certain facts. These facts may be determined or found by either a jury or judge. When the evidence and proofs have been offered and the judge or jury makes findings as to what the facts are, then the judge applies the law and makes an order or judgment.

Facts are proved by offering documents, testimony, public records, etc. All proof must relate to and be material to the issues in a case or are objectionable and will not be admitted as proof of a fact.

Proofs that are offered in a trial may be inadmissible for one reason or another, such as the incompetency of a witness, failure to identify a document or photograph, the conjectural nature of testimony, the fact that the only one who could deny the proof is dead, or for numerous other reasons.

### Well Known Rules

A very well known rule is that an "opinion" of a witness is inadmissible in evidence. An equally well-known corollary or exception to the rule is that opinion evidence is admissible where the question involved does not fall in the range of common experience or knowledge and the judge or jury is not equally capable with the witness of forming an opinion from facts stated. Then opinions of witnesses, skilled in the particular science, art or trade to which the question in the case relates, are admissible.

Very frequently an architect is called in as an expert witness in a lawsuit. Questions may be put to him relating to good practice in architecture and construction, compliance with plans, reasonable value of services, reasonable value of repairing damage to or cost of reproduction of buildings, etc. A common type of lawsuit is where a building contractor fails to comply with plans and specifications, or if he draws them they are found to be insufficient and contrary to good practice. Then when the contractor sues, the owner frequently retains an architect to testify in Court as to his opinion of good and proper design and construction, the reasonable value of replacement and repair of improperly constructed items and the like. Insurance companies frequently employ architects to estimate damage, or determine the cause of the collapse of a building, or whether certain construction resulted in a "safe place" under Section 101.06 of the Wisconsin Statutes defining a "safe place" of employment.

Occasionally when an architect gets into an altercation with a client and a lawsuit results over the payment of fees, other architects may be called in to give an opinion on whether the disputing architect engaged in good or bad practice and what was the value of his services.

### Examples

The following are a few examples of cases involving expert testimony of interest to architects.

In *Allison -vs- William Doerflinger Co.*, 208 Wisconsin, 206, 242 N. W. 558, the Wisconsin Supreme Court allowed the expert testimony of a building engineer and a building inspector of the Industrial Commission relative to reasonably adequate safety devices in the construction and maintenance of stairways. The Court in the Allison case cited also the case of *Marsh et al -vs- Babcock et al*, 240 N. W. 392 where text-books and scientific works were not admissible in evidence but allowed the opinion of a witness that a boiler tube was a menace to life and limb.

In *Brust -vs- First National Bank*, 184 Wisconsin 15, 198 N. W. 749, the Court held that the value of an architect's services was a matter to be established by expert testimony.

In *Milwaukee County -vs- H. Neidner Co.*, 220 Wisconsin 185, 263 N. W. 488, the Court held that it was not improper for a trial judge to remark "The question is whether this (method of construction) is one that is ordinarily recognized by architects and engineers as an acceptable one."

### Expert Witnesses

Before being permitted to testify as an expert, the witness is usually examined as to his qualifications and whether his knowledge is derived from actual experience or study. Whether or not a witness is qualified to express an opinion is a matter for the trial judge to decide.

If qualified, the witness is then questioned as follows. He is given a hypothetical statement of facts and then asked, if such facts are true can he form an opinion, and if so what is his opinion.

The hypothetical statement of facts must include facts that there is evidence to prove, and must not include facts which the testimony or proofs do not warrant.

Competence as an expert witness can be of great value to an architect, and a reputation for honesty and careful and cool judgment as an expert witness will cause an architect to be greatly in demand by the Courts and lawyers. Familiarity with the building codes as a prime requisite, and then a knowledge based on experience and study in the practice of architecture are necessary to qualify as an expert. These requisites are of course secondary to the fundamental requisite of personal integrity and good character which will not permit an ethical architect to prostitute his science and knowledge for an expert witness' fee.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DEPUTY INSPECTOR RETIRES

After forty years of walking through the swinging door of the Milwaukee City Hall, each morning and again in the evening, breaking this routine and saying goodbye, is not an easy thing. But that is what William Gaethke, Deputy Inspector of Buildings, will be doing the last of this month. He is retiring.

And so his many friends and co-workers, both inside the City Hall, and outside, are giving a farewell dinner in his honor on Monday, October 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Schwaben-Hof, 2042 N. Twelfth Street.

As Leon M. Gurda, Inspector of Buildings, says, "I am sure Mr. Gaethke deserves this honor, after nearly forty years of faithful service."



## RECONVERSION OF BUILDING PRODUCT MANUFACTURE

Production of most standard building products needed for the postwar construction program can reach the 1939 level in four months or less after manufacturers are permitted to begin reconverting their plants, Russell G. Creviston, Chairman of the Postwar Committee of The Producers' Council, stated in summarizing a survey of 37 trade associations representing manufacturers.

"Moreover, many manufacturers who for the most part have been producing their usual lines for the war program will be able to turn out materials and equipment at the pre-war rate within two months after war production is cut back," Mr Creviston says.

"Since the volume of new construction in 1939 exceeded \$6.3 billion, the survey indicates that the supply of building products will be sufficient to permit a relatively large amount of building and of construction employment soon after reconversion starts.

"The outlook with respect to specific types of building products, as reported by the various associations, is as follows:

"Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning equipment—On the whole, it will take several months after reconversion to achieve production at even 50 per cent of the 1939 rate. Some products, including vitreous china plumbing fixtures, are now above 1939 levels, but the supply situation is critical with respect to other products in this group.

"Sand, stone, cement, plaster, lime—Current production either is in excess of the 1939 rate or could be for the most part in two months or less.

"Clay and concrete products—Production of brick, tile, clay pipe, concrete masonry units, and concrete pipe can easily exceed 1939 levels in less than one month.

"Lumber and lumber products — Present output is considerably in excess of the pre-war rate with the armed forces as the chief consumer. Availability depends largely on reduction of military requirements.

"Paint—Production at the 1939 rate could be achieved within two months, so far as standard lines are concerned.

"Steel and non-ferrous metal building products — Although production of basic steel shapes currently is higher than in 1939, war needs take a large portion. Steel sheet and structural shapes capacity is more than adequate. Reinforcing steel bars will quickly exceed 1939 production. Up to four months will be required, however, before the output of fabricated steel items, such as metal lath, steel joints, and accessories will reach 1939 levels.

"Elevators—It will take from two to four months to achieve 1939 production of elevators, escalators, and dumbwaiters.

"Electrical supplies, refrigerators, and ranges — Production of electrical supplies now is greater than in 1939. Mechanical refrigerators and ranges, however, probably can not be produced in any great quantity in less than four months.

"Other materials—Asphalt roofing and tile production is now at or above 1939 levels. The same is true of wallboards, insulation boards, mineral wool, glass, asbestos cement pipe and siding, and other products."

## Home Building

Fewer than half of the families intending to buy or build a new home immediately after the war will be able to carry out their plans during the first postwar years, says Irving W. Clark, chairman of the Residential Committee of The Council.

"Although the recent survey conducted by the Office of Civilian Requirements indicates that 650,000 non-farm families will be in the market for a new dwelling as soon as private home building can be resumed, a forecast by the Council's Market Analysis Committee shows that only about 350,000 new dwelling units will be built during the first year after the war," Clark said.

"Although restrictions on the building of private dwellings probably will be relaxed within the next few months, the number of new homes constructed before the final end of the war will be relatively small, owing to the limited supply of many essential building products.

"Even though production of building materials and equipment can be resumed on a full scale soon after the final end of the war, the volume of new residential construction during the first 12 months after Japan is defeated will be limited because building contractors and home builders will need considerable time to reassemble their organizations and undertake extensive construction.

"Moreover, fully half of the new dwelling units constructed during the first postwar year may be apartments or other dwellings built for rent, rather than for occupancy by the owner. Thus, it is possible that only about 175,000 to 200,000 of the new units constructed will be available for the 650,000 families hoping to purchase or build a new home at the earliest opportunity.

"Many of the additional 2,500,000 non-farm families who expect to acquire a home soon after the war, according to the OCR survey, but who either are not fully decided or else did not specify how soon they would act, probably will have to wait more than two years after the war ends before obtaining their new home, inasmuch as the number of new urban dwellings constructed during the ensuing five years is not expected to average more than 970,000 a year, even with virtually full employment.

"Accordingly, only those individuals whose building plans are completed well ahead of time can count on obtaining their new home soon after the war."

\* \* \* \* \*

Anthony J. Wuchterl, Chairman of the Historic Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter, A.I.A., is about to start out on his fall pilgrimage of making the public architecture conscious.

Monday afternoon, October 30, at 2:30 o'clock, he will be in Green Bay giving a talk before the Catholic Women's League at Allouez Hall. He will show his many interesting slides of early Wisconsin Architecture. The pictures were all taken by Mr. Wuchterl.

Beginning Wednesday evening, November 8, he will open his series of illustrated lectures on "Design and Planning of the Small Home" as a part of the Home Planning Course at the Milwaukee Vocational School. The other lectures will be held November 15, 22, and 29, from 7:30 to 9:30.

The Architect, as well as the layman, will find these lectures most enlightening.



## MILCOR BUYS OSBORN COMPANY IN POSTWAR EXPANSION PROGRAM

In line with plans for expanded operation after the war, the Milcor Steel Company, Milwaukee (subsidiary of Inland Steel, Chicago) has purchased The J. M. & L. A. Osborn Co., of Cleveland.

The Osborn Company is one of the country's pioneer manufacturers and distributors of sheet metal products, having been established in 1859. It operates branches in Buffalo, Detroit and Cincinnati. In serving the construction industry with sheet metal building materials its lines closely parallel those of Milcor.

Plans are to continue operations as The J. M. & L. A. Osborn Co., Division of Milcor Steel, with the present Osborn organization remaining intact. It will later be supplemented by Milcor people to handle those Milcor products not carried by Osborn.

\* \* \* \* \*

## IMMENSE BUILDING PROGRAM AWAITS MAN POWER

The backlog of construction projects awaiting the relaxation of government controls and the availability of man power and building materials exceeds 10½ billion dollars, F. W. Dodge Corporation, fact-finding organization for the construction industry, reports.

The data were compiled after special inquiry by Dodge's field staff directed to more than 400,000 persons representing city, county, state and federal government agencies, private industry, commercial, religious, social, educational and other organizations, individual prospective home builders, operative home builders, architects, engineers, contractors, insurance companies, banks and other institutional mortgages. The compilation covers all states east of the Rocky Mountains and pertains to projects reported up to August 31.

School and college buildings, hospital buildings, manufacturing, loft and office buildings and churches—in the order listed—are the principal non-residential classifications reported. The backlog of school and college buildings alone amounted to \$767,930,000, and all nonresidential building to \$2,676,373,000.

In the residential field, Dodge reported a backlog of slightly less than a half billion dollars for one-family dwellings to be built for owners to order and by operative builders for sale or rent. The total of residential building, including apartment houses, dormitories and hotels, was \$1,032,066,000.

In the field of heavy engineering construction, comprising public works and utilities, the Dodge corporation has a list of contemplated projects valued at 6.8 billion dollars. Streets and highways represent the bulk of the heavy engineering construction, although substantial volume is indicated for dams and reservoirs, sewerage systems, electric light and power facilities, and airports.

\* \* \* \* \*

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## "THE DECAY OF ARCHITECTURAL MORALE" — VIEWS OF NOTED AMERICAN ARCHITECT

By LOUIS LE BAUME  
I.S.A.—F.A.I.A.

Morale is an ugly word, like many other ugly things it is very much in evidence at the moment. We speak of national morale or group morale or individual morale as being high or low, as we tend toward courage and confidence or toward cowardice and despair. There are many signs that the morale of the architectural profession is not satisfactory. To speak bluntly, it's pretty bad.

Building for "commoditie, firmenes and delight" has ceased and the architect's present plight is pitiable; but that it is hopeless is still open to question. The loss of employment is hard to bear, but the loss of one's self-respect is not to be borne at all. "Who steals my purse steals trash . . . ; but he that filches from me my good name robs me of that which not enriches him and makes me poor indeed." It is shocking to discern so many symptoms of decaying morale in all the talk that goes on about architecture and the future of the architect. Even the old terms "architecture" and "architect" are being used more and more sparingly, as though they might hint at some taint or stigma.

### *Longs to Be An Engineer*

To refer to architecture as an art is no longer considered good form in certain circles. And any chance reference to beauty makes the average architect hang his head in shame. He feels himself not only unwanted but scorned. He apologizes for his past virtues simply because he hears them vociferously described as vices. And he begins to follow a policy of appeasement—to compromise with his own inner faith. The efficiency boys seem to have got his goat and he longs, oh, how he longs, to be an engineer.

Well, engineering is, like marriage, an honorable estate and not to be entered into lightly, but solemnly, soberly and in the presence of God. And, as our marriage laws are based on the principle of monogamy, candidates for matrimony are, not unreasonably, required to make up their minds. Mistakes of choice frequently occur, but the anguish of temperamental incompatibility may be relieved by the courts. So likewise if any of us should decide to divorce himself from the Muse of Architecture and pay allegiance to the Muse of Engineering the way to do so is open. Only let us have an end to this eternal triangle stuff. Let us fish or cut bait.

Perhaps before we decide to make so important a decision, however, we might do well to consider some of the circumstances which have brought about our confused and debilitated state of mind. Until a few years ago the architect believed in himself and in the dignity of his calling. He was respected in the community as a man apart from the jerry-builder or the structural engineer. By reason of his special qualities and, to some extent, as a result of his training, he had been able to cultivate the public appreciation of architecture as an art, differentiating it from mere building. He had succeeded in organizing his professional con-

cepts in such a way as to win the respect of the more intelligent elements of the community. By them he was considered not a futile visionary, a dilettante, or a long-haired aesthetic, but a man of taste and sound, practical judgement. His sense of order, his skill in plan and design were supplemented by sound knowledge of fundamental structure and by sufficient administrative ability to co-relate and combine the various factors and crafts involved in each special work entrusted to him.

### *Many Rose to Eminence*

Under these conditions many men rose to eminence in the architectural profession, some in limited, some in larger fields. Always the architect's personality was revealed in his accomplishments and the work of the more talented men was easily identifiable by this personal touch, even in the period when eclecticism, in the use of the so-called historic styles, was rampant. If this eclecticism resulted in a certain anarchy, it at least stimulated the public imagination toward an increased respect for the goals which a truly national architecture might some day attain. Gusto, virility and vigor abounded in much of the work of the generation just past. This exuberant practice of architecture went on all over America until the great debacle of 1929. With no indigenous architectural traditions of our own in a terrain embracing all the topographical variety of a continent, in a climate ranging from the extremes of Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand, and with a population of mixed European ancestry, a considerable period of experimentation is understandable. Even so, we were developing an American idiom, especially in our commercial structures and our domestic architecture. In these fields we had achieved standards of efficiency and convenience unmatched in Europe or elsewhere. We hadn't, it is true, learned to conceive our home as a mere machine for living. We regarded it rather as a pleasant haven, the focal point or normal, decent, intelligent family life and of civilized hospitality. Its roots were in the earth, and it bore no resemblance to a ship, a tank or a body by Fisher.

### *Place Usurped By Constructor*

During World War I there had been a perceptible lessening of activity. The architect was momentarily thrust aside and his place usurped by the constructor. Army cantonments, barracks, depots and supply bases were thrown together in a great hurry, and, as emergency and temporary structures, they were perhaps justifiably considered not worthy of the architect's capabilities. Architects had a mild case of jitters, fearing continued encouragement of the builder and constructor after the war, although even in normal times the great bulk of building in this or in any other country has been accomplished without benefit of architects

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or architecture. This nervousness was not immediately justifiable, for throughout the building orgy following the war, American architects were employed on a scale unprecedented in any other time or place. But flies appeared in the ointment.

In the speculative frenzy of the 'twenties the promotor, the realtor and the go-getter seemed to rule the roost. Witnessing their pre-eminence, the architect frightened himself into believing that his security depended on the mastery of the arts rather than on the cultivation of his own. Some devil kept whispering that the architect could survive only by himself becoming a realtor, a promotor or a captain of finance. He was urged to think less and less about architecture as architecture and more and more about architecture as business.

#### *New Cult of Efficiency*

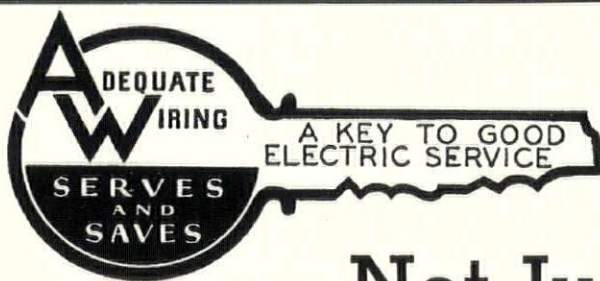
The war had interrupted the orderly progress of architecture in Europe and the rebuilding of the devastated areas of France contributed nothing of any inspirational value. In Germanic countries, however, forces were being released which would tend to change the entire course of architectural progress. In Germany, in Holland, Belgium, Norway and Sweden a new cult of efficiency per se was being promulgated. This new cult was destined ultimately to spread across the seas and to influence, for better or worse, our preconceived theories of design and our hitherto cherished conceptions of the dignity of architecture. Functionalism was hailed as a new discovery, although few architectural principles or motives can be said to have been

more functional than the column, the lintel, the arch, the dome or the buttress. While we readily admit that some of these motives were becoming less and less applicable to modern necessity, the new school's utter contempt for tradition was, to say the least, disconcerting.

We began to hear of Behrens and Mendelssohn, the Bauhaus group, and the very vocal French engineer who called himself Le Corbusier. We began to see visions and hear voices—high, shrill voices. Frank Lloyd Wright came out of his silence and soon the pack was in full cry. Proponents of a new order, in addition to their contempt for all precedent and history, exhibited a tendency to brush aside every consideration of climate, geography and diplomatic comity in their enthusiasm for what they proudly called the "international style."

#### *Rise of the Internationalists*

Ironically enough, those who had been loudest in their demand that we cease to look toward Europe for inspiration, but, instead, express ourselves in a purely native idiom appropriate to our habits and environment, now urged us to follow the lead of the internationalists. Photographs of some of their achievements began to appear in the architectural press. They were studied with interest and awe. They undoubtedly emphasized the merit of simplicity, and we felt, with relief, that nothing more could be taken off. The reaction of neither the public nor the profession was immediately enthusiastic. As the pictures were not instantly



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irresistible, they were soon followed by a mass of argumentative and expository literature. Unfortunately these writings were couched in such occult terms and repeated simple and time-worn truths in such fantastic jargon that popular bewilderment increased. If old clichés were discarded their place was filled with gibberish.

As often happens when the masses are confused, opportunists arose to capitalize the public diffidence and lack of understanding. Here at last was a new fashion fresh from Vienna, Dessau or Stuttgart, ready to be exploited. Customers could undoubtedly be found if they could be flattered or cajoled into believing themselves members of the vanguard. The poor boobs who had hitherto been content to ask, "What style is it?" would now perhaps ask "What the hell is it?" Nevertheless, they could be shamed by a superior pose into ultimately accepting it. Had not the same thing happened in the field of pictorial art? Those who came to laugh (at cubism, dadaism, futurism and abstractism) remained to pay.

### *Muffed the European Idea*

It was an uphill job in the early 'thirties because Americans weren't building much. We knew the old stuff to be obsolescent but we thought we were broke. And we couldn't borrow money from Europe, though the international style had been developed in Europe with money borrowed from us. Our first experiments with the new style were tentative and sporadic—a shop front here, a speakeasy there, a cocktail lounge, a dentist's office, a gasoline station. Then our big chance came with the celebration of a Century of Progress at Chicago. The cognoscenti say (by cognoscenti we mean, of course, the Modern masters) that we muffed it. Our American boys hadn't quite got the feeling of the thing. Nor did we do much better in attempting to visualize the World of Tomorrow at Flushing. True, we enclosed a lot of space at both places, having been told that architecture is only an envelope, a carton, or shell, and that space is the meat in the coconut. So the shell game goes on—we sneak upon space and try to snare some of it in a plastic hand-box or glass container.

Seriously we are told that it's the shape of the space that counts, not the appearance of the envelope or container. We are dogmatically assured that architects throughout the ages have been barking up the wrong tree or wrong column. The new order attaches great importance to the use of the fifth column, long known to us as the humble Lally and formerly relegated to menial and often underground service. As a matter of fact, the Lally is probably the oldest of all the orders, and no one can deny its insinuating grace and practical performance.

### *Beauty Versus Function*

Engineers have always loved the Lally. They've always loved straight lines, too, as the shortest distance between two points and the easiest to draw with the proper mechanical instruments. They never could manage mouldings or ornament of any kind. Carving pained them, detail bored them, composition or proportion flabbergasted them. Few of them had ever cared how a thing looked as long as it stood up. Flat roofs and factory sash were a cinch, and the cantilever—oh, the cantilever!—was right down their alley. Of course, they joined the movement, for here was the kind of stuff they could do with one hand tied behind

their backs. They cheered, they jeered. They said that architects had been thinking too much of appearance and not enough of realities, that we'd been thinking of balance and order and something called composition or something else called proportion. Worse still (and this is the most damaging indictment of all), that we'd been thinking of beauty or majesty or dignity when we should have been thinking only of function. This is a shattering charge. No wonder we are unnerved.

From youth to old age we have been beguiled by beauty, and now to be told that we are only a lot of Tommy Manvilles is upsetting. Moreover, it is disconcerting to Beauty herself, who is sincerely conscious of her ability to function quite as well as Ugliness. *What Has Become of the Architect?*

"What is the world coming to?" she says to herself. "Are there to be no more birds of bright plumage, no more aigrettes, no more subtle devices of appeal to which nature herself resorts for the perpetuation of life, the exercise of liberty and the pursuit of happiness? "Where are all the architects," she cries, "who used to fall for me? Where are the poets who used to make ballads to my eyebrows, the minstrels whom I inspired to sweet song, the painters who delight in loveliness?" She waits for an answer. They are gone—all gone—or at least they are in hiding. Others are goosestepping to the sharp commands of the apostle of the new order. They have taken over the universities and the academies; they are burning the books. "No more dalliance," they bark. "Eyes forward; don't look back. Let the dead past bury its dead."

We begin to feel the hot breath of the superman. "This is the Age of Power," he cries. "So be your age. Make all your buildings look like powerhouses." And we begin to see universities that look like great industrial plants, museums and schools and hospitals that look like factories, houses that look like little factories or laboratories or quarantine stations. Machines for living! Yes. But living to what end!

Let us never forget that men cannot nourish themselves forever on the dry husks of scientific efficiency, under the tyranny of cold mathematical calculation, bent before an altar of barren ideologies. Let us contend, as men once contended, for the solace of art, for spiritual comfort of the old — yes, the old-fashioned humanities, for the thrill of melody, for the peace that comes with beauty.

Only one of the most active proponents of the modern cult raised his voice to plead for more art in housing. So you see the pangs of hunger have already begun to gnaw. They must be satisfied in time, for we shall have more art in housing, more sap, more juice, more blood and sweat and tears, and, please God, more laughter. We shall have indeed a new architecture, different from the old as the old styles are different from each other, but, like the old, rich with all the poetry of man's experience and the promise of his possibilities.

We believe architecture to be an essential service to human society, if by architecture we mean such fabrics as satisfy the hunger of the soul, not merely the hunger of the belly or the bank account or the lust for power. We believe in the architect's responsibility to keep faith with himself, for only thus will his fellow men keep their faith in themselves or their faith in architecture.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter written by a Fellow of The Royal Institute of British Architects, asks the Editor of the British Journal many questions. Read them and you will see much similarity between the British and American outlook. Have you any questions to ask your Editor?

—The Editor

### POST-WAR HEADACHES FOR THE PRACTISING ARCHITECT

12, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1  
Holborn 6177

31 July 1944

The Editor,  
The Journal R.I.B.A.

Dear Mr. Editor,—For the past two years I have been endeavoring to keep my architectural knowledge up-to-date, and I have read every Act, White Paper, Report, Code, B.S.S., and report of importance speech that I have been able to get hold of. This has given me a great deal of technical knowledge as well as a few headaches, and I have spent part of this year's summer rest (in lieu of holiday) trying to summarise the present position of a practising architect, the advice he will be able to give to his clients, and the procedure that he will have to adopt, after the war.

My conclusions are not very encouraging, as there seem to be so many doubts, restrictions, regulations, confusions and contradictions that it may not be possible to practice at all, and therefore I am writing to point out the position that we have drifted into, and to suggest that the R.I.B.A. should review the position of a large section of our members with a view to giving them some guidance for the future.

Of the many difficulties that we will have to face, the following are a representative sample, but by no means a full list:—

#### Civil Building Licensing

We have been told that licensing will continue for some years after the war, but no list of priorities has been published, so that an architect cannot advise his clients what classes of buildings will be allowed to proceed or when. We know, of course, that housing must come first, and that schools will be high on the list, but the public must also have buildings to work in, to obtain supplies from, and for many health, recreational and communal purposes; which of these are to be permitted, and in what order of priority?

In my experience it takes anything up to ten months to obtain a building licence now, and when obtained the licence can be revoked at any time. How long will it take to obtain a licence after the war, and will it still be subject to revocation? If revoked, who will compensate the client for any loss? At present licence applications are comparatively few in number and are small in value; after the war there will be huge numbers of applications, and the average value will be much greater; what machinery, if any, is being prepared to deal with all this?

#### Town Planning

All architects wish to see our towns and countryside developed to the best advantage in the public interest, but what is to happen during the long interim period whilst the plans are being prepared, approved and published? Some local authorities will not consider an application unless an undertaking can be given that the building can commence within six months; others will not consider applications at all. Apparently no reasons need be given, and there is no right of appeal. How can any building commence within a definite period when there is no limit to the time that the Ministry of Works will take to grant a building license?

#### Bye-Laws and Building Acts

Our Model Bye-laws and Building Acts are the same now as they were before the war. Led by the Government, many architects, industrial concerns and private individuals have been experimenting with alternative materials and forms of construction which do not comply with the present regulations. Are these alternatives to be permitted? Local authorities can and do ignore their own bye-laws, but what is the position of the private owner?

#### Post-War Building Reports, and Codes of Practice

These are now appearing in large numbers, backed up with a steady flow of British Standard Specifications. How are they to be used? Will building license be

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conditional upon the relevant codes being used? Or the latest B.S.S.? Or will they be incorporated into the Model Bye-laws? And what happens when a Code does not comply with the Bye-laws?

#### War Damage

The latest publication of the Commission, R.O.D.1, requires (or "advises") previous consultation in cases which will cost over £250, and in all cases in which there is some doubt as to the extent of the work. Also the Commission wishes to approve working drawings, specifications, bills of quantities, forms of contract and tenders, before the work is commenced. The present machinery creaks badly when dealing with the comparatively small number of claims being made now, although most of the present claims are small, and long delays are the rule rather than the exception. What machinery, if any, has been prepared to deal with the much larger number of claims that will be made after the war, and of very much higher value than are now being made?

#### Housing by Private Enterprise

We have been told that a large contribution is expected towards the housing shortage from private enterprise, and it has been stated that the subsidy will not be confined to houses built by local authorities. This would appear to be the legitimate field for the practising architect, but a brief examination shows that the position is almost hopeless. Local authorities can obtain land at 1939 prices, whilst private enterprise must apply for town-planning consent and very likely not get it; local authorities will be able to commence work whenever they are ready, but private enterprise will have to apply for a building licence and wait indefinitely for it; local authorities can ignore their own bye-laws, but private enterprise must comply. Obviously private enterprise will hardly be able to operate at all under these circumstances.

#### Cost

What will a building cost even when it can be built? The Government say that the cost of building must come down, but are strangely reticent about how. Are rates of wages to be lowered, or holidays-with-pay cut out, or the guaranteed week dropped? Is "organisation and management" to be the panacea for all ills, as if it had not been thought of before.

And what will be the cost of land, when there may be an 80 per cent betterment tax on it? And who will own it anyhow? The White Paper on the Use of Land leaves some horrid doubts.

I do not want to make this list any longer, because it is depressing enough as it is. It would be easy to raise other points on the Full Employment White Paper, the relation between the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act and recent Town-Planning proposals, the treatment of chartered architects by the War Damage Commission, etc., but probably I have mentioned enough to illustrate the position that we have been drifting into.

The sort of questions that a practising architect will have to find answers for are:—If a client wishes to erect a commercial building on a bombed site, which authority is to be dealt with first, and how? Is the order of procedure Town-Planning, Bye-laws, War Damage Commission and Ministry of Works? If Town-Planning and Building Act consents are obtained, R.O.D.1 successfully navigated, and the license refused, what fee can be asked for the enormous amount of preliminary

work, and will the client pay it? If under Town-Planning a building must be started within six months, and the other authorities take longer, what is the position? At what stage in the proceedings should the bills of quantities be prepared, bearing in mind that the whole job may fall through at any time because of one or other of the authorities? At what stage should party walls and easements be dealt with under these conditions? How long can a Contractor be expected to keep a tender open when costs may be fluctuating violently and the War Damage Commission and the Ministry of Works both want to see the tender and will probably take months to deal with it?

A whole series of similar questions could be asked on the technical side, where it seems quite impossible to reconcile various reports and codes with bye-laws, such as the effect of discontinuous structure for sound insulation upon the London Building Act. The tendency of all this is to make practice almost impossible, for we should have to spend the best part of our lives trying to find a way through, or round, vast entanglements of red tape.

Therefore I would suggest that the R.I.B.A. should review the position of the profession, and see what can be done to get architectural work going again within a reasonable time after the war, on a basis that it is possible to operate.

Yours truly,  
Percy V. Burnett (F)

\* \* \* \* \*

Talmadge Hughes, Chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Public Information, addressed his fellow architects by letter on June 23. The burden of his song was the booklet printed by Edwards and Company and gratuitously distributed, entitled "Start Right with an Architect." The purpose of this booklet, of course, is to create jobs for the individual architects, in other words "selling" the architect. Mr. Hughes is quite enthusiastic over the results, that is, the distribution results. He tells of 20,000 requests for "How to Plan Your New Home," a booklet printed by Edwards and Company of Norfolk, Connecticut, for the same purpose. These 20,000 requests were received from readers of *Time* and the *American Home*. Says Mr. Hughes, "a large percentage of them will probably heed the urge to start right with an architect."

It is all very interesting, Mr. Hughes, but what counts is final results! If you could establish the number of architect's clients obtained from the 20,000 requesting one of these books, you would be achieving something in statistics that could be of real value to the architect.

Monthly Bulletin  
Illinois Society of Architects

\* \* \* \* \*

Walter G. Memmler, first vice president of the State Association spoke before the members of the Cosmopolitan Club on "Housing" Wednesday noon at the luncheon meeting at the Milwaukee Athletic Club.

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## JOINT COMMITTEE PRAISED FOR BOND DRIVE RECORD

The Wisconsin Architect is extremely apologetic. In its September issue it made the unforgiveable statement that "the Joint Committee was only barely able to meet its quota."

The fact of the matter is that the Construction Industry in Milwaukee County, represented by the Joint Committee of Building Construction Industry and Union Employees of the A.F.L., in spite of the fact that it had a late start in the Fifth War Loan Drive, exceeded its quota of war bond purchases by \$445,617.

And that is not all.

According to the War Finance Committee:

**THIS WAS ONE OF THE BEST "OVER THE TOP" RECORDS SHOWN DURING THE DRIVE."**

Now then, that makes for a far happier impetus in starting on the Sixth War Loan Drive, than to be impelled because of having previously fallen short.

Be that as it may, because of the Joint Committee's unavoidably late start, many architects had committed themselves to other groups. Bearing in mind that the Sixth War Loan Drive is to start November 20, they are hereby asked to purchase their war bonds through the Joint Committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

Leigh Hunt again will be general chairman, or Captain, for the Architects' group, assisted by Frederick A. Lubert Jr., representing the Wisconsin Chapter, and Walter M. Trapp, representing the Seventh District of the State Association, which includes all architects in Milwaukee County.

The Joint Committee had for its object in the Fifth War Loan Drive, the raising of \$1,750,000 to finance the building of a cargo vessel by Froemming Bros. Inc., Shipyards. This was realized Sunday morning, October 22, when the "Clarion" was christened by Miss Virginia Lee Huebner, a senior at North Division high School, chosen by the high school Victory Corps. The Victory Corps is composed of a group of high school students who have been doing an outstanding job in helping to collect the city's wastepaper for salvage and manufacture into war and civilian goods.

Working with Arthur A. Ornst, chairman of the Joint Committee, on arrangements for the launching, were Peter T. Schoemann, vice-chairman, Alfred F. Maier, President of the General Contractors Association, and Stanley H. Eigel, Executive Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

A separate survey among 200 operative builders in several states conducted by Sweet's Catalog Service shows that 117 already have prospective buyers, and 43 have contracts now to build homes to owners' orders. The 200 builders polled said that they planned at present to build 15,882 dwellings during the first two years materials and man power became available and cost maxima are unrestricted. The builders said that more than half of the homes built for sale would cost \$7000 or more.

\* \* \* \* \*

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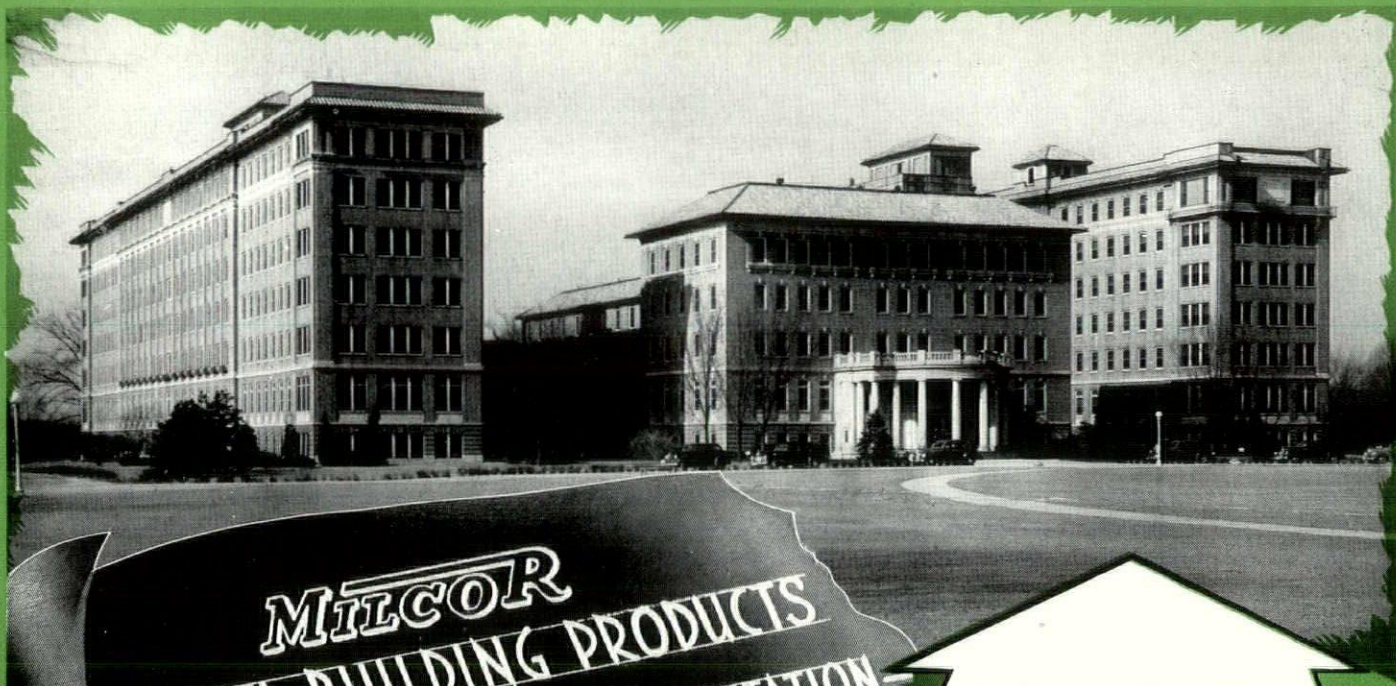
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*Below: View showing detail of the main entrance in the central wing.*

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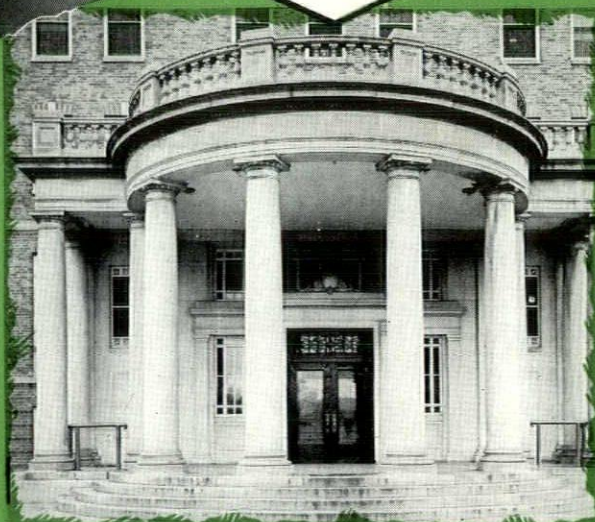
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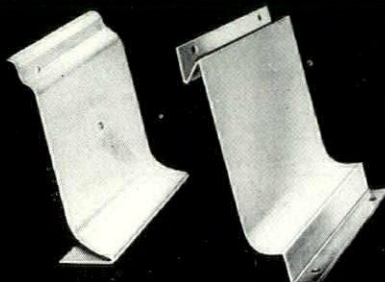
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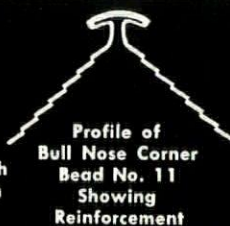
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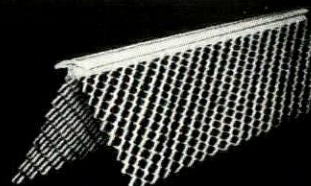
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